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SERVICE NEWS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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PERSONNEL CHANGES

Pursuant to the Secretary's announcement last month of major changes in the structure of the USDA, the Chief's office has designated the following personnel changes in the SCS:

E. J. Utz, Head of the Section of Erosion Control Practices, will be temporarily in charge of the Divisions of Project Organization, Land Acquisition, and Land Development, formerly in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and now incorporated in the SCS.

As Assistant to the Chief, Mr. Utz will direct the integration of the field work of these Divisions with that of the Service, and will have technical supervision of regional and field offices concerned with carrying out their programs. In Washington, he will be responsible for the administrative direction of the three Divisions.

To assist Mr. Utz on special personnel problems connected with the transfer of these Divisions, C. P. Emery has left his post as Acting Head of the Personnel Management and Training Section; and Leland Barrows, former Assistant to the Chief, has taken over Mr. Emery's duties.

REGIONAL CONSERVATORS' MEETING

A meeting of the Regional Conservators was held October 25-29 to consider the reorganization of the Department of Agriculture as it affects the Soil Conservation Service.

The first session, on Tuesday morning, presided over by the Chief, heard talks by the following members of the USDA on aspects of the new Service program with which they are concerned:

Paul H. Appleby, Assistant to the Secretary, on "Objectives of the Secretary's Reorganization Orders."

E. H. Wiecking, Associate Land Use Coordinator, on "The Role of the Soil Conservation Service in the Department Land Use Program."

H. R. Tolley, Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, on "The Planning Program of the Department."

L. C. Gray, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, "The Philosophy of the Land Utilization Program."

Assistant Chief D. S. Myer was chairman of the afternoon session, and of the next two days' meetings, at which the administration of the land utilization program was the principal topic of discussion. C. F. Clayton, James Gray, and W. M. Russell, in charge, respectively, of the Divisions of Project Organization, Land Acquisition, and Land Development of the BAE, spoke on their particular subjects as they related to future SCS activities.

Wednesday morning each Conservator reported on present and proposed programs for his own Region, and the afternoon was given over to a general discussion of special problems for committee study.

Phases of the reorganization orders other than the land utilization program which will affect the SCS were considered on Thursday under the headings of flood control surveys and operations, farm forestry, and the water facilities program. The speakers were Chief A. L. Patrick of Watershed and Conservation Surveys; Conservation Operations Chief C. B. Manifold; J. F. Preston, Head of Woodland Management; T. L. Gaston, Head of Cooperative Planning; and Mr. Wiecking.

The remainder of the time was devoted to general sessions, committee meetings, and committee reports. Dr. Patrick served as chairman of the steering committee.

SCIENTIFIC MEETING

A number of SCS men will take part in the joint meeting of the American Society of Agronomists and the Soil Science Society of America which will be held at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, November 16-18.

E. A. Norton, Head of the Section of Conservation Surveys, will be chairman of the Soil Technology Section of the SSS, which meets at 1:30 P.M. on Wednesday and at 9:00 A.M. on Friday. The ASA Section on the Vegetative Aspects of Erosion Control will be conducted on Thursday at 1:30 P.M. by C. R. Enlow, Head of the Agronomy Section.

The Chief will deliver the principal address at the SSS annual dinner on Wednesday evening, speaking on "The Erosion Problem and Its Solution." The following Service members will read papers before various Sections of the meeting:

E. J. Utz, Washington, D. C.
J. M. Snyder, Washington, D. C.
M. E. Stephens, Washington, D. C.
C. S. Slater, Geneva, N. Y.
E. A. Carleton, Geneva, N. Y.
G. M. Browning, Morgantown, W. Va.
T. C. Peele, Spartanburg, S. C.
O. W. Beale, Spartanburg, S. C.
E. E. Latham, Spartanburg, S. C.
P. J. Zwerman, Spartanburg, S. C.
H. Kohnke, Coshocton, Ohio.
C. L. Orrben, Fort Worth, Tex.
J. L. Boatman, Des Moines, Iowa.
S. L. Sloan, Spokane, Wash.
A. W. Jacklin, Moscow, Idaho.
V. G. Kaiser, Moscow, Idaho.

STORM DAMAGE IN NEW ENGLAND

Word has been received by the Economic Research Section to the effect that the recent storm damage in the New England States destroyed a number of the large tobacco barns in the Scantic River watershed.

In view of the fact that the Economic Research Section has recently made a survey of the resources available on these farms, it will now be necessary to re-survey this area in order to determine the extent of the storm damage and the effect it may have on future production, on the organization and operation of these farms, and on the farm income.

STATISTICAL CONFERENCES

A. E. Brandt, statistical analyst, Division of Research, spent October 17-19 at Ames, Iowa, where he attended a conference on the statistical methods used in agricultural research. Accompanying him on this trip was W. G. Cochran of Harpenden Herts, England, who is delivering a series of lectures at Ames during the months of October and November.

J. D. Sayre, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, stationed at Wooster, Ohio, and A. N. Watson, formerly with the BPI in Puerto Rico, who has just returned from a year's study of statistics abroad, also attended these meetings, as did SCS personnel from North Dakota, Nebraska,

Kansas, Ohio, and Iowa. The first two days were spent in presenting a definite program, and October 19 was reserved for individual conferences and committee meetings.

The latter part of October Dr. Brandt spent in Region 1. In Philadelphia he met J. T. Bregger of the regional Research Division, who accompanied him to New Brunswick to meet H. C. Knoblauch of the New Jersey experiment station. October 24 and 25 were spent in viewing the work at the State branch experiment station in Beemerville and the Marlboro project, and in conference with State Coordinator L. L. Lee at New Brunswick.

A meeting at the New Jersey State Agricultural College was attended by 30 men from three of the project and camp areas and a number from the State experiment station. Dr. Brandt talked to them on the use of statistics in research and evaluation surveys.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSPECTION

W. J. Roth, in charge of the Service's economic research work, and C. W. Collier, farm management specialist in the Section of Erosion Control Practices, have made a recent study of work in a number of western States as it relates to economic research problems and practices.

In Spring Valley, Minn., they attended a farm tour and demonstration and discussed with those present specific details of changes to be made on a selected farm.

In Washington, Oregon, and Idaho they visited economic research projects and conferred with personnel on future developments of the work. On their way East, Dr. Roth and Mr. Collier stopped at Fort Collins, Colo., to meet with the Economic Research representative in Region 6; and at Lincoln, Neb., they talked over with State and Federal workers the relationship of the research being done to other lines of work in the State.

HILLCULTURE EXPERIMENTS VIEWED

A field day was held September 30 on the experimental farm near Floris, Iowa, where S. B. Detwiler, Head of the Section of Hillculture Studies, and his staff have been working with the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station on a series of cooperative research studies in hillculture.

Begun only last spring, the experiments have nevertheless shown good preliminary results under the direction of J. M. Aikman and his associates on the project and at the Iowa State College. The local farmers and other visitors who attended the field day exercises were

able to inspect the various types of planting and erosion-control cultural experiments, which were explained by staff members, and to go through the laboratory to see the equipment and hear the method of using it discussed. In the afternoon brief talks were made by Mr. Detwiler, Director R. E. Buchanan of the Experiment Station, Dr. Aikman, and others.

The objectives of the hillculture project are as follows:

- (1) To develop permanent vegetative cover for sloping and erodible lands, and to study the economic uses of the plants selected.
- (2) To study the establishment and management of hillculture plantings under varying types of cultivation.
- (3) To investigate the effect of plants used in different combinations.
- (4) To observe the effect of soil and climate on the plantings and vice versa.

To date, more than a dozen different experiments are in progress on the farm.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

C. P. Emery, O. B. Sandberg, Safety Technician of the CCC Section, and safety officers from the 11 Regions attended the Silver Jubilee Safety Congress and Exposition of the National Safety Council held at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, October 10-14. A number of project managers, CCC camp superintendents, and safety officials from Region 5 were also present, their interest in the Service's safety program having led them to take annual leave for the purpose.

The National Safety Congress, attended this year by some 10,000 delegates, is one of the largest annual conferences held in this country. Delegates were grouped into approximately 40 sections, many of which held their meetings simultaneously. C. M. Fergusson, Safety Specialist of the USDA, and S. M. Lauderdale, CCC Safety Director, took part in the programs of the Maintaining Interest in Safety Section and the Construction Section, respectively.

This meeting was made the occasion for the annual conference of SCS regional safety officers; and daily breakfast, luncheon, and late afternoon sessions were conducted by Mr. Emery in order to give the men an opportunity for discussing Service problems as well as topics brought up at the Congress.

The SCS conference was attended also by R. H. Musser, Region 5 Conservator, in Chicago for a part of the Safety Congress, and by members of the Region 5 CCC Administrator's staff, who were meeting in the city.

According to Mr. Emery, safety engineers were unanimous in agreeing that the Jubilee Congress was the most successful that had yet been arranged for them.

VISITOR TO NEW BRUNSWICK

A. G. McCall, of the Research staff, lately received the following letter from a recent British visitor, E. J. Richardson.

Dr. Richardson is from the University of Durham, King's College, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England; and was in this country attending the meetings of the International Congress of Applied Mechanics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at the Bureau of Standards in Washington.

"I am just writing you a letter as I am on the point of sailing for England to say how much I appreciate the trouble you took to insure my visit to the Projects in New Jersey. I had a most interesting day, examining the instruments used for run-off and the weir gauges, under the kind direction of Messrs. Krimgold and Knoblauch. This was just what I wanted to see, as there is nothing like it in England.

"Dr. Lee, the Coordinating Officer, also was most kind to me, so that altogether I much enjoyed my day in New Brunswick."

SOIL CONSERVATION IN RHODESIA

The extent to which soil conservation is now being practiced in Rhodesia is indicated in a letter received by Wellington Brink, editor of the magazine "Soil Conservation," from Douglas Aylen, technical assistant of the Department of Agriculture, South Rhodesia. Mr. Aylen made a two-months' tour of conservation projects in this country under the auspices of the Carnegie Foundation. His letter reads as follows:

"I thought you might like to know how seriously our government is now taking soil conservation. In an act of July 1st soil conservation can now be made compulsory in any place or district at the discretion of the Minister for Agriculture and on the recommendation of Water Courts, Soil Conservation Boards, or members of the Irrigation Division.

"Soil Conservation Boards will be set up in each district and will probably consist of a local magistrate (judge), a soil conservationist or engineer and a local farmer. If their recommendations are not carried out the "Water Court" can order it to be done and the cost to be recovered from the owner of the land.

"In order to speed up the work we are contemplating purchasing power equipment and doing the work at so much per mile, for the farmers who would prefer to have it done for them.

"Fires are being taken very seriously as you will see from the enclosed cutting where a man was fined fifty pounds (\$250) for starting a fire. The other cutting gives an account of the impressions of a farmer on soil conservation in a district where land slopes vary from 2 to $\frac{1}{2}\%$. On this farm the slopes are not more than 1%.

"The only snag is that in spite of all this drive our staff is still about the same!

"I have requested the local committee of the Carnegie Trust permission to send you a copy of my report but have not had a reply. I hope to be able to send it to you shortly."

TECHNICAL CONFERENCES IN REGION 3

As part of planned personnel education, Region 3 recently held a series of technical staff conferences which were conducted on a somewhat new basis, compared to similar meetings in the past.

Where previously a number of schools or conferences have been held for foresters, agronomists, conservationists, and other groups, the most recent meeting brought all groups of technicians together at one time and in one place for two days of discussion. All technicians with professional rank attended one or more of four conferences held in strategic locations throughout the Region: Benton Harbor, Mich., Oct. 3-4; Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 6-7; Paducah, Ky., Oct. 11-12; Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Oct. 19-20.

The conference pattern in brief: On the first day a call to order, with an explanation by Regional Conservator J. S. Cutler of the Conference's purpose. This was followed by technical group meetings or tours for detailed analysis of specific problems -- in which project managers, camp superintendents, conservationists, agronomists, foresters, biologists, conservation surveyors and engineers took part -- which lasted the remainder of the day.

On the second day, all groups sat together for discussion of the small group meeting highlights and of general matters such as information and education, records and reports, progress and institutional cooperation. Mr. Cutler then gave a summary of the conference and made some observations on the nature of future work.

"These meetings were a new type, so far as Region 3 is concerned," Mr. Cutler said after their conclusion. "Though obtained at considerable expense to the Government, the exchange of ideas and the opportunity for correlation of numerous phases of the Service program appeared to justify the cost and a considerable effort in planning and carrying out arrangements. Such a school -- in reality an important step in personnel education -- enabled the Regional Administrators to reach many technical employees of project and camp who are not often reached other than by formal correspondence. It appears now that it was possible to develop greater enthusiasm for our important work than would have been possible by conferences of small groups of technicians. The exchange of viewpoints and understanding of the whole program was unquestionably better than could have been obtained by small group meetings."

RESEARCH MEN HONORED

Hunter Rouse has been advised that the Board of Direction of the American Society of Civil Engineers has awarded him the Norman Medal for his paper, "Modern Conceptions of the Mechanics of Fluid Turbulence," which appeared in Vol. 102 of the Transactions of that Society.

Dr. Rouse is a member of the staff of the Silting Damage to Stream Channels and Valleys Investigation project operated by the Sedimentation Studies Section, Research Division, in cooperation with the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena.

This medal is awarded each year to a paper published in the Transactions of the Society which shall be judged worthy of special commendation for its merit as a contribution to engineering science. The medal was instituted and endowed in 1872 by the late George H. Norman, member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Just off the press is "Fluid Mechanics for Hydraulic Engineers," a volume of the Engineering Societies Monographs Series written by Dr. Rouse for the specific use of graduate students and practicing engineers, and based upon his research work at the Karlsruhe Technische Hochschule, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Department of Civil Engineering of Columbia University, and the California Institute of Technology.

Nephi A. Christensen, a former member of the staff of the Pasadena project, has just been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Christensen resigned from the Service last month to become Dean of Engineering and Head of the Civil Engineering Department, Colorado State Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colo.

REGIONAL PERSONNEL OFFICERS
MEET

The annual conference of the Civil Service Assembly held in Washington, October 17-21, gave regional personnel officers of the Service an opportunity to hold a series of conferences of their own. A number of Forest Service and Farm Security Administration regional men were also called into Washington at this time to discuss Departmental personnel problems with field personnel officers from other bureaus.

In addition to six sessions of the Assembly which Service personnel officers attended at the Wardman Park Hotel, four sessions were held in the Department for the field officers of the various bureaus. The SCS personnel men were able to arrange five sessions of their own in this busy week; but were unable to cover as much ground as they desired, and so continued their conference all day Monday and Tuesday, October 24 and 25.

WIND EROSION CONTROL PROGRAM

The Soil Conservation Service will cooperate in the 1939 program for the control of wind erosion in the Southern Great Plains States by giving technical assistance to soil conservation districts or associations, lending them available equipment, and supplying them with certain seed and planting stock, according to an announcement from the Secretary's office.

The Service also aided the AAA and the FSA in working out unified programs for these States.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Just issued by the USDA are three Leaflets on soil conservation topics written by members of the Service:

No. 163, "Legumes in Soil Conservation Practice," by A. J. Pieters, of the Section of Agronomy and Range Management.

No. 164, "Erosion on Roads and Adjacent Lands," by A. M. Davis, of the Engineering Section.

No. 165, "Soil-Depleting, Soil-Conserving, and Soil-Building Crops," also by Dr. Pieters.

NOTES

Alan Harper, Director of Technical Cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, with headquarters at Denver, Colo., is in Washington conferring with officials of the Operations Division on matters connected with the recent Departmental changes.

The Water Facilities Program was the topic of a radio talk made by the Chief on the Farm and Home Hour, November 7.

J. S. Barnes, of the Operations Division staff, has just returned from a fortnight's trip through Regions 7, 4, and 2, where he visited regional and project offices.

A special showing of the three SCS films was given last week for Colin Maher, soil conservationist from Kenya Colony, East Africa. Mr. Maher expects to develop a cinema unit in his own Service at Nairobi, and is eager to arrange an exchange of films with the SCS.